

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Family and environment can influence humans' characteristics and personality. The treatment of the parents during one's childhood is also of great importance for the development of personality, as stated that "The home is regarded as being by far the most important factor influencing character development" (Bakwin 38). That is why childhood experience, especially traumatic experience can affect someone's characteristic changes. Barry Dickins brings this issue in his novel, The House of The Lord.

Barry Dickins is known as one of Australian's best-loved and prolific writers. Barry Dickins writes novels, short stories, plays, scripts, biographies, non-fictions and children books. His plays have been produced by theatres throughout Australia. As an Australian, Dickins seems to dedicate his works

to introduce Australia to the world because most of his work is set in Australia, especially Melbourne; “Dickins is best described as a humorist who employs the people, traditions and rituals of Melbourne in his dramatic writing” (www.auslit.edu). That is the reason why I choose Barry Dickins. There is no doubt about his ability in writing, which makes this novel is worth analyzing.

I choose Barry Dickins’s novel, The House of The Lord because the characters in the novel are described in great details. I used formalism approach to do my analysis. The element that I will analyse from the novel is portrayal of the two major characters. I am interested to analyse it because the personalities of the major characters in the story are familiar. I agree with Keeney, who says that “A character is obviously relevant to us and our experience if he is like ourselves or like others whom we know. Lifelikeness, then, is properly understood as one form of relevance. A character is relevant if there are a lot of people like him in the real world” (27).

In my analysis, I want to focus on the major characters, Bertie Warble and Johnny Rigos. Bertie Warble, the protagonist of the novel, changes into a negative thinking person especially towards men since he feels demoralized and insulted by his father and also his teacher. Johnny Rigos, the other major character, becomes a person who changes his sexual orientation because he has a traumatic experience in his teens. He has been sexually abused by a priest in his Catholic school. Both of these major characters have one similarity, that is bad experience in the past that changes their characteristics.

Statement of the Problem

1. How does the author portray the two major characters?
2. What is the purpose of the author in creating such characters?

Purpose of the Study

1. To show how the author portray the major characters.
2. To show the purpose of the author in creating such characters.

Method of Research

In my analysis, I read Barry Dickins' novel, which is The House of The Lord as the primary text. I choose the most significant element in this novel to be analysed. Then I search other sources and references from books and electronic website in order to support my analysis. Finally, I find conclusion based on my analysis.

Organization of the Thesis

The thesis is organized into three chapters. Chapter One contains Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the analysis of the portrayal of the major characters in Barry Dickins' novel, The House of The Lord. Chapter Three is the Conclusion of the analysis. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which include the biography of the author and the synopsis of the novel.